

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. - 45. (Canceled).

46. (New) A method for real-time communication among two or more individuals separated in space, comprising:

determining that a first individual is likely to be interested in communicating with a second individual via a first communications link;

retrieving information via the first communications link about one or more additional individuals from electronic memory means associated with the second individual; and

establishing communication with at least one of the additional individuals based on the retrieved information.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the step of determining that a first individual is likely to be interested in communicating with a second individual via a first communications link comprises the step of:

establishing communication between the first individual and the second individual.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the communication established between the first and second individuals is carried out by telephony.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the communication established between the first and second individuals is by real-time telephony.

50. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the communication established between the first and second individuals comprises exchanges of voice mail messages.

51. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the communication established between the first and second individuals comprises exchanges of text messages.

52. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the first and second individuals communicate via real-time video.

53. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the first and second individuals communicate via interactive real-time text communication.

54. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the step of determining that a first individual is likely to be interested in communicating with a second individual comprises the steps of:

displaying a representation associated with the second individual to the first individual; and
selecting the representation by the first individual.

55. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the information in the memory is obtained by observing previous communications between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the communication established between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory is carried out by telephony.

57. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the communication established between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory is by real-time telephony.

58. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the communication established between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory comprises exchanges of voice messages.

59. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the communication established between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory comprises exchanges of text messages.

60. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory is by real-time video.

61. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the communication established between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory communicate via interactive real-time text.

62. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein from observing previous communications between the second individual and one of the individuals in the memory, the frequency with which the second individual communicates with the individuals in the memory is determined, and the individuals are sorted in the memory according to the frequency of communication.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein the individuals in the memory that do not communicate frequently with the second individual are deleted from the memory after a certain amount of time.

64. (New) A collaborative conferencing system comprising:
a large virtual space room;
a display for displaying in real-time a representation of only those persons in the virtual space room who have been defined as likely to be interesting; and
means for establishing communications with the persons in the virtual space room.

65. (New) The system of claim 64 wherein the representation of persons includes information about the persons.

66. (New) The system of claim 64 wherein the collaborative conferencing system is set to a mode of random casual conferencing, the random mode enabling the communication between two persons that seek an interesting by otherwise random conversation.

67. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the communication comprises two-way audio conferencing.

68. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the communication comprises two-way interactive text communication.

69. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the communication comprises email exchange between the two persons.

70. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the communication comprises voice mail message exchanges between the persons.

71. (New) A collaborative conferencing system comprising:
a large virtual space room comprised of persons from the general public or from private groups or organizations;
a display for displaying in real-time a representation of persons from the virtual space room;
and
means for establishing communications with the persons in the virtual space room

72. (New) The system of claim 71 wherein the communications can be established via text conferencing or via audio conferencing.

73. (New) The system of claim 72 wherein the group of persons that form the virtual room are partitioned into subgroups.

74. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein persons in a subgroup only communicate with persons within that subgroup.

75. (New) The system of claim 74 wherein a person in a subgroup can transfer to another subgroup after looking at the existence of other subgroups in the display and determining another subgroup of interest.

76. (New) A method for communication among two or more individuals separated in space, comprising:

identifying at least one person that is likely to be interesting;
retrieving information, via a communications link, about one or more additional individuals from an electronic memory means associated with the at least one person; and
communicating with the one or more additional individuals based on the retrieved information.

77. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the communicating with the one or more additional individuals comprises an email.

78. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the information retrieved from the electronic memory means associated with the at least one person is organized in a personal directory in the electronic memory means and entered manually by the at least one person.

79. (New) A communication system comprising:

a server connected to a wide area network (WAN) for receiving from a first user an identification of a second user, and for sending, via a communications link connected to the server, information about one or more additional individuals from memory associated with the second user, and for assisting in communication between the first user and the one or more additional individuals.

80. (New) The system of claim 79 wherein the communication between the first user and the one or more additional individuals comprises an email.

81. (New) The system of claim 79 wherein the information sent from the memory associated with the second user is organized in a personal directory and entered manually by the second user.